

Directed Differentiation of Embryonic Cells

Abstract

5 Methods are described for mapping a pathway of differentiation of a population of
embryonic cells which includes exposing the cells to an exogenous factor and measuring gene
expression products that are characteristic of a particular cell type or lineage. Directing
differentiation of human embryonic cells relies on dissociated embryoid bodies which are then
exposed to one or more exogenous factors to enrich a culture for a particular cell type. The
10 differentiated cells may be used for treating a medical condition in a human. Kits for determining
differentiation pathways and screening exogenous factors for their utility in differentiation are
provided.